

NEWS AND NOTES - February 2018

Friend -

At our Central Committee meeting on January 31st, your local Democratic Party again demonstrated its efficiency and efficacy - and showed real signs of momentum for a successful 2018.

First, we approved a clean audit - a necessary component of showing our financial strength and stewardship. Second, we welcomed one of our most diverse slates of Primary Election candidates ever, in races up and down the ticket (including candidates for Congress, Secretary of State, State Representative and Commissioner). And lastly - perhaps most impressively - we welcomed 9 newmembers of our Committee.

Taken together, these items paint a picture of a Party that is both stable and conditioned to grow and harness the movement for change that is so apparent in our community. That picture is further reinforced by our strong group of candidates for County offices this year - incumbent Commissioners Vicki Kline and Mike Kerrigan and Auditor candidate Lis Kenneth Regula - and our near-record number of candidates for the coming Central Committee term.

We have a lot to be proud of, a lot that we're doing, and lot more to do to ensure Democrats can be successful advocates for the issues people care about this year and beyond.

Here, you'll find updates on the many events that are beginning to crop up as we near Primary Election Day, as well as an interview with the first of our 3 candidates for the Democratic nomination for the 75th Ohio House District. We've also included news clips to keep you in the loop.

If there's anything else you think we should include here in the future, please don't hesitate to let us know by contacting County Treasurer Brad Cromes via [email](#). Thank you, as always, for all you do.

Onward,

Craig Stephens, Chairman
Portage Co. Democratic Party

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[Mike Kerrigan for Commissioner Campaign Kick-Off](#) - February 27, 2018 - 4:30pm - 6:30pm - Franklin Hotel Bar, 176 E. Main St., Kent, OH 44240

Please join us in supporting our newest Commissioner as he kicks off his campaign to retain the seat. Tickets are \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals, and \$60 for couples. RSVP by emailing events@mikekerrigan.us or calling [330-577-3134](tel:330-577-3134). Please make all checks payable to Mike Kerrigan Committee. Contributions accepted online or by mail for those unable to attend.

[Hometown Fundraiser for Kathleen Clyde](#) - March 4, 2018 - 4pm - 6pm - Cellar Door Cafe, [8136 Water St., Garrettsville, OH](#) State Representative Kathleen Clyde grew up in Garrettsville, graduating from James A. Garfield High School. Friends in the area enthusiastically support her current run for Ohio Secretary of State and will host a fundraiser on her behalf at the Cellar Door Coffee Shop. Although this event is a fundraiser and donations are important, we want everyone to understand Kathleen's expert perspective on redistricting. RSVPs are appreciated but not required and may be made by replying to this email or to Angela@kathleencl Clyde.com. Come and hear Kathleen talk about critical voting issues and what she will do Secretary of State for all Ohioans!

Gubernatorial

Debate http://www.portagedemocrats.org/randi_clites_for_state_rep_fundraiser?e=3359918e7020905197ef1641deadf1ec&utm_source=portagedems&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=febnews2018&n=4 - March 7, 2018 - 5pm - 6:30pm - Streaming Online, [WTOL.com](#)

The 90-minute debate will be held at Bowsher High School in Toledo, and WTOL-TV will air the debate live starting at 5 p.m. It will also be available via livestream at [WTOL.com](#).

[Steve Dettelbach for Attorney General Reception](#) - March 13, 2018 - 4:30pm - 6pm - The Overlook, [1519 Overlook Rd., Kent, OH 44240](#)

Please join us for a reception with Attorney General candidate Steve Dettelbach. Steve has spent the last 25 years as a federal prosecutor. Most recently, he served nearly seven years as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, for which President Obama nominated him and the Senate unanimously confirmed him. As Northern Ohio's top federal prosecutor, he garnered bipartisan accolades for fighting corruption and defending civil liberties. We hope you'll join us on March 13th to help Steve continue his campaign's momentum. If you can't make it, I hope you'll consider making a contribution to

his campaign by clicking [here](#).

Federated Democratic Women Meeting - March 17, 2018 - 12pm - 1pm - Beef O'Brady's, [3975 Cascades Blvd., Kent, OH 44240](#)

Join our women's group affiliate for their monthly meeting.

[Clites for State Rep Friend and Fundraiser](#) - March 22, 2018 - 4:30pm - 6:30pm - English Pub, 320 E. Main St., Ravenna, OH 44266

Please join Friends of Randi Clites for an event to get to know Randi and support her run for State Rep of the 75th House District. More information about her campaign and the event are available on her [Facebook page](#).

[March For Our Lives](#) - March 24, 2018 - 10am - 1pm - Public Square, Cleveland, OH

Indivisible Northeast Ohio will be leading a rally with speakers advocating for sensible gun control measures beginning around 11am, followed by the march through downtown Cleveland beginning at Noon. From their release, "You have a little time before the 24th, so start to brainstorm those sign ideas and get hype for the March For Our Lives!"

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ELECTIONS UPDATES

With the passing of the write-in candidate deadline, the last of the hurdles for finalizing the May 8, 2018 Primary Election ballot is almost cleared! Keep your eyes on the Board of Elections [website](#) for an updated listing of all candidates and issues to appear on the ballot in your area (which should be available in the coming weeks).

POLL WORKERS NEEDED: The Board of Elections is also always looking for poll workers! Find out more about the job (and fill out an application) [here](#).

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GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES - Candidate for State Rep. Randi Clites

Traditionally in this section, we focus on profiles of our elected office holders. Given that our Primary Election is 3 months away - and we have 3 candidates for the 75th Ohio House District being vacated by Kathleen Clyde - we think giving you some information on each of them is a better use of this space.

First up is Randi Clites, a bleeding disorders advocate and mother from Ravenna. We contacted Randi to catch up with her and her a little more about her background and plans for the office. A lightly edited version of our conversation follows.

Thanks for taking the time to talk, Randi! First up, can you give us a little background about yourself? Where did you grow up? Where did you go to school? What's something unique about you that sets you apart?

"I've lived in Ravenna my entire life. I graduated from Ravenna High School in 1993. I went to Boecker's Business College to earn a diploma in Accounting. After graduation, I worked my first full time job at Cleveland Punch and Die in Ravenna. I went back to school after my son was born to be able to work a more flexible schedule as a Realtor for Ohio Realty Group. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Business with a minor in Political Science from Hiram College; I did this while working two jobs to become a first generation college graduate in 2015. I know firsthand the unique challenges of a middle-income family working multiple jobs to provide for a medically fragile child. I have used this experience to become a statewide and national advocate for issues impacting chronically ill patients and their family."

What are you most proud of having accomplished in your career to date?

"I have followed a path of success by learning to trust the process and my personal journey. Every career choice I have made has been to provide a better life for my family and then secondly to fulfill my passion for helping others. There is not just one accomplishment that I am proud of, instead my proudest work-related realization is the development of the ability that I have gained to take a challenging situation and work out a plan of action to resolve it with input from others. I am always willing to look at a situation from many viewpoints to achieve a successful outcome. I am proud of the fact that I have developed a strong collaborative leadership style."

What challenges facing our community are the most troubling to you?

"Access to quality, affordable healthcare is my personal passion. I will continue to work to have stronger networks to provide insurance to citizens at all levels of income both within and outside of their employment benefit packages. I believe we can do better for our community. I plan to work with small businesses to provide them with the ability to compete with benefit packages available at larger companies. I also believe that insurance companies can provide patients with better access to providers and comprehensive care."

What opportunities are you most excited about for Portage County and Ohio going forward?

"I believe that Portage County, and Ohio, are at a point where citizens are engaging in volunteerism and activism at an awesome upward trend. I see this as an extremely important step in overcoming the divisive environment that has developed over the past 2 years. I am excited and energized by this movement. We are only as good as our most vulnerable, and with this forward movement my hope is it will give everyone that wants to engage the opportunity to be heard."

Where can people learn more about your campaign and get involved?

"As a first time candidate, I need your support. I invite you all to attend my upcoming events, so you can learn about me and why I've decided to run for State Representative. The first is in Ravenna on March 22nd from 4:30 - 6:30pm at The

English Pub. The second is planned for April 19th in Kent; location still to be determined. I will have sign ups for volunteer opportunities at the events and on my website: www.randicites.com. You can also get event details on my [Facebook page](#). My cell is 330-730-1259. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me."

Thanks again, Randi, and good luck this spring!

For more on Randi's campaign, follow her [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#).

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ICYMI - NEWS AND NOTES

Toledo Blade (Editorial) - [Right-to-work proposals don't help families](#) - January 19, 2018

"At a time when wages are declining, income inequality is rising, and the stock market is posting record profits, we owe it to our children and our grandchildren to root out the real problems with our upside down economy. Is it that employees have too much power in the workplace? Is it that families are spending too much time together instead of working? Are middle class families hoarding cash instead of reinvesting in the economy? I don't think so. But at the heart of it, that's what these fraudulently named "right-to-work" proposals are suggesting."

Warren Tribune-Chronicle - [Rally Held to Support Imprisoned Man Adi](#) - January 22, 2018

"Meanwhile, Homeland Security is currently reviewing Adi's immigration case, while U.S. Rep. Timothy Ryan, D-Howland, is trying to move legislation granting Adi citizenship to prevent his deportation...Attorney David Leopold appeared on behalf of Congressman Ryan, while Youngstown Mayor Tito Brown and Youngstown council members and Mahoning County commissioners also attended."

Youngstown Vindicator - [Ohio lawmakers want Camp Ravenna for missile defense site](#) - January 24, 2018

"...the Ohio House of Representatives has unanimously adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 8, which urges the US Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency to select Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center as the preferred site for a future East Coast Missile Defense System."

Dayton Daily News - [Polls show DeWine, Cordray leading in their primaries for Governor](#) - January 24, 2018

"A lot can happen between now and November."

Record-Courier - [Portage headed for busy May Primary](#) - January 30, 2018

An as-it-happens account of candidates filing for Party nominations for County and State offices.

Plunderbund - [Blue Wave Alert: Ohio Dems Outraise GOP Opponents for Every Statewide Office](#) - February 1, 2018

"Yesterday was an important holiday for Ohio political nerds. It's the day that campaigns had to file their annual fundraising numbers for 2017, reflecting money raised since the semiannual deadline halfway through the year. And, for the last six months of 2017, Democrats outraised their Republican counterparts in Every. Single. Statewide.Race."

Advance Ohio - [Four Judges File for Two Ohio Supreme Court Seats](#) - February 7, 2018

"Judge Melody Stewart, a Democrat on the Eighth District Court of Appeals in Cleveland, will challenge (Republican) DeGenaro. Stewart, 55, was first elected to the court in 2006 and has served as a visiting justice on the Ohio Supreme Court...In the other race, Democrat Michael P. Donnelly, a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas judge, and Republican Craig Baldwin, a state appellate court judge from the Fifth District in Canton, filed as candidates. Donnelly, 51, has served on the court since 2005 and previously served as a Cuyahoga County assistant prosecutor."

Advance Ohio - [Ohio's proposed gerrymandering fix not perfect, but a big step](#) - February 8, 2018

Mike Kerrigan (Editorial) - [Increasing transparency, accountability with a county administrator](#) - February 11, 2018

"As taxpayers, you elect your commissioners to drive policy and formulate the ideas that move our county forward to improve the lives of our citizens. However, in the current structure we are often too busy responding to the issues of the day to find time to focus on any sort of strategic planning...This is why I am advocating for a shift to a professional county management model through the hiring of a county administrator."

Columbus Dispatch (Editorial) - [Crowded ballot good for democracy](#) - February 12, 2018

"Ten major-party candidates for governor...The most meaningful sign of life, though, might be down-ticket in an unusually full slate for Ohio's 99 House of Representatives seats and 17 of 33 Senate districts. These contests are where newcomers have the best chance of winning. More important, though, is that the Statehouse is where the state's political personality is most clearly expressed. For too long, it has been dominated by an extreme wing of one party, and the result has been a backward-looking brand of lawmaking that is hurting Ohio's efforts to build a modern economy and hold onto our best and brightest young people."

Toledo Blade - [Pillich urges Democrats to unite around Cordray](#) - February 14, 2018

"The last woman standing in the Democratic gubernatorial field dropped out of the race Wednesday and urged the party to unite behind Richard Cordray after her own campaign failed to catch fire. 'As the GOP rallies around Mike DeWine and promises more of the same destructive policies that have put our state into the terrible situation it is in now, it is time to come together,' said Connie Pillich, a former Cincinnati state representative. 'Democrats have got to come together,' she said with Mr. Cordray at her side. 'We've got to put aside our differences, and we have to unite.'"

Toledo Blade - [Schiavoni's Longshot Crusade](#) - February 20, 2018

"To his credit, Joe Schiavoni is staying in the race for the Democratic nomination for governor even though his path to the party's nomination on May 8 is anything but wide and flat. Mr. Schiavoni, a lawyer from Boardman, near Youngstown, and a member of the state Senate for the last 10 years, makes a worthwhile claim: He's the only candidate left standing who is directly involved in making and voting on state policy."

CNN - [Parkland students: "We are trying to succeed where the adults have failed"](#) - February 21, 2018

"We are certain that those politicians who advocate for limited or no gun regulation share our former ignorance. They likely do not have firsthand experience with the horrors of mass shootings. In their defense, it typically takes that kind of personal connection to fully process the gravity of an issue. To put it simply, personal experience changes political priorities. Take Senator Rob Portman, a Republican from Ohio, who did an about-face with respect to gay rights when he learned that his son is gay. The formerly staunchly anti-gay-marriage politician reversed course -- embracing a more progressive way of thinking. And we, too, have adopted a new way of thinking -- one we hope can prevent future shootings. As previously apolitical young adults, we are taking our first crack at doing what the adults have failed to do: offer a concrete solution to this plague of violence."

WBNS - [Ohio Treasurer candidate wants private prison spending study](#) - February 22, 2018

"Democrat Rob Richardson asked Republican State Treasurer Josh Mandel to conduct a fiscal and economic impact study into Ohio's prison system. Richardson is an attorney and former board chairman at the University of Cincinnati. He wrote of 'a deeply personal concern' over Ohio having one of the nation's highest mass incarceration rates. He said Ohioans deserve to know how much tax money is going to private prison operators. Richardson said that spending would better be used on education, affordable health care and better-paying jobs."

Record-Courier - [Veteran Prosecutor Eugene Muldowney, 54, remembered for professionalism](#) - February 22, 2018

"Gene approached all of the roles he played with an unmatched tenacity, tinged with compassion," the Portage County Dems wrote on their Facebook page. "His was a talented mind, a strong will and a kind heart, and his sudden passing leaves a void in our community."

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For more news and notes on the activities of Democrats from around Ohio, subscribe to the Ohio Democratic Party Daily Update [here](#).

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The Portage County Democratic Party

<http://www.portagedemocrats.org/>

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